

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 IO-13 /115 W
-----124953 181403Z /43

R 170625Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5501
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USINT HAVANA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
AMEMBASSY NIAMEY
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L TRIPOLI 0719

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, LY, CD
SUBJECT: LIBYA-CHAD RELATIONS

1. TAJ AL-JERBE, DIRECTOR AMERICAS DEPARTMENT, CALLED ME
IN MAY 16 TO DISCUSS ALLEGED REMARKS BY STATE DEPARTMENT PRESS
SPOKESMAN ON LIBYA-CHAD RELATIONS. JERBE SHOWED ME ENGLISH
TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS SPOKESMAN'S STATEMENT ON EITHER MAY 3
OR 4 TO EFFECT THAT CHADIAN REBELS WERE ARMED AND BACKED BY
LIBYA. HE ASSERTED THAT THIS WAS A ONE-SIDED STATEMENT AND
WISHED ME TO CONVEY TO MY GOVERNMENT FULLER PICTURE OF
SITUATION.

2. LIBYA, ACCORDING TO JERBE, HAD GOOD RELATIONS WITH BOTH
THE MALLOUM GOVERNMENT AND THE GOUKOUNI REBELS. LIBYA WAS
LEGITIMATELY CONCERNED ABOUT STABILITY IN A BORDER STATE
AND, THEREFORE, WAS SEEKING TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEMS THROUGH
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NATIONAL RECONCILIATION. THE RECENT SEBHA AND BENGHAZI
CONFERENCES WERE IMPORTANT PART OF THIS PROCESS WHICH WAS
CONTINUING. THE U.S. SHOULD BE FULLY AWARE OF LIBYAN
EFFORTS TO PREVENT THE SITUATION FROM DETERIORATING FURTHER.

3. JERBE SAID PRESENCE OF FRENCH TROOPS IN CHAD WAS
DESTABILIZING ELEMENT AND IMPEDED SOLUTION. EVEN IF

TECHNICALLY LEGAL, PRESENCE SET PRECEDENT FOR FOREIGN INTER-VENTION IN MANY OTHER COUNTRIES OF AFRICA. COLONEL QADHAFI, HE SAID, HAD STATED ON MANY OCCASIONS THAT LIBYA OPPOSED ALL NON-AFRICAN TROOPS IN AFRICA AND BELIEVED THAT AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED BY THE AFRICANS. I ASKED JERBE IF THE COLONEL'S CONCERN EXTENDED TO RUSSIAN AND CUBAN MILITARY PERSONNEL. JERBE REITERATED THAT LIBYA WAS OPPOSED TO THE PRESENCE OF ALL REPEAT ALL FOREIGN TROOPS. I AGREED TO CONVEY MESSAGE BUT SUGGESTED LIBYA'S AFRICA FOR THE AFRICANS STANCE WOULD BE STRENGTHENED WERE IT TO DENOUNCE WITH EQUAL EMPHASIS PRESENCE OF OTHER FOREIGN TROOPS IN AFRICA SUCH AS CUBANS AND SOVIETS. WITHOUT RESPONDING DIRECTLY JERBE REPEATED STATEMENT THAT LIBYA OPPOSED OUTSIDERS IN AFRICA. I NOTED THAT THE US ALSO STRONGLY BELIEVED AFRICAN PROBLEMS SHOULD BE SOLVED IN AFRICAN CONTEXT AND WOULD WELCOME LIBYAN SUPPORT FOR THIS POSITION.
CARLE

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